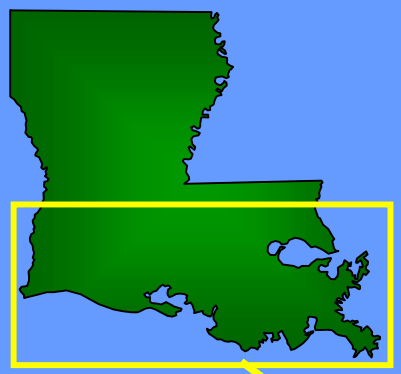
Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA), LA Ecosystem Restoration, Science and Technology (S&T)



- **Status:** FY05 LCA funds are being used to develop the Science & Technology Program.
- **Sponsor:** State of Louisiana, Dept. of Natural Resources
- FY06 Budget: $5,000,000
- **FY06 Funds Required:** $5,000,000
- **Next Event/Date:** Nationwide search to identify and select a qualified Director to implement the LCA Science and Technology Program.

Project Fact Sheet

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District, CEMVN-PM-W
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Date: 02 March 2005

Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Ecosystem Restoration, LA (General Investigations): Ecosystem Restoration Study, Science and Technology

STUDY AUTHORITY: Senate Resolution 19 Apr 67 and House Resolution 19 Oct 67.

STUDY SPONSOR: The State of Louisiana, Department of Natural Resources.

STUDY LOCATION: The study area is Louisiana's coastal area from Mississippi to Texas. Louisiana parishes in the study area include Ascension, Assumption, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, and Vermilion.

STUDY PURPOSE: The Science and Technology Program will support the Louisiana Coastal Area restoration efforts. The goal of the Science and Technology Program is to provide the necessary science and technology to effectively address coastal ecosystem restoration needs.

STUDY FEATURES: The Science and Technology Program will develop system-wide frameworks for monitoring, modeling, and evaluating restoration efforts, lead a long-term research effort to advance understanding of the coastal ecosystem and it's needs, address key scientific and technological uncertainties and challenges, review proposed demonstration projects and large-scale studies, ensure that significant scientific findings are considered and incorporated into engineering plans on an ongoing basis (adaptive management), and monitor the ecological effects of the overall restoration effort.

STUDY COSTS: The LCA study is seeking programmatic authorization for the Science and Technology Program to progress over a 10-year period at an estimated cost of $100 million ($50,000,000 Federal/$50,000,000 non-Federal).

STUDY SCHEDULE: Funds for LCA Ecosystem Restoration General Investigations are being used for the development of the Science and Technology Program. These efforts include identification of a program director, staffing of the program office and initial development of coast-wide data collection. In FY 2006, the Science and Technology Program will be budgeted separately.

STUDY BACKGROUND: As a result of the natural coastal processes and human activity, coastal Louisiana has lost over 1,200,000 acres of land since the 1930s. As recently as the 1970s, the loss rate for Louisiana's coastal wetlands was as high as 25,200 acres per year. The current rate of loss is about 16,000 acres per year. Without action, it is estimated that coastal Louisiana will lose an additional 328,000 acres by the year 2050.

• LCA Plan feature studies are being conducted under the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Authorization of 1967. The LCA Ecosystem Restoration Study supports the Louisiana Coastal Area – Ecosystem Restoration, Louisiana reconnaissance report approved May 1999, and proposes long-range, large-scale ecosystem restoration strategies to restore and protect coastal Louisiana. The LCA Ecosystem Restoration Study was initiated in FY02. The Study report identifies a Near-Term Restoration Plan that will address critical ecosystem needs that require immediate attention and to improve the scientific and technology-base needed to effectively provide for the protection and restoration of coastal ecosystems. The LCA Science and Technology Program will support the implementation of the overall LCA Plan through data collection and management, development of analytic tools, scientific research, and identification and monitoring of demonstration projects. The science and technology management effort will be developed through a science community involvement process and working closely with other Federal Agencies and the State of Louisiana.

ISSUES: Implementation of the LCA Ecosystem Restoration Plan, Science and Technology Program component is contingent on Congressional authorization for the program in FY 05. FY06 budgeted funds of $15,000,000 will be used to implement the Science and Technology Program of the LCA Ecosystem Restoration study.

General Investigations

Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA), LA - Ecosystem Restoration, Science and Technology

Status:

- The study area is Louisiana's (LA) coastal area from Mississippi to Texas. Twenty LA parishes are included in the study area. The Science and Technology Program will develop system-wide frameworks for monitoring, modeling, and evaluating restoration efforts.
- Funds for LCA Ecosystem Restoration General Investigations are being used for the initial development of the LCA Science and Technology Program. These efforts include identification of a program director, staffing of the program office and initial development of coast-wide data collection. The LCA Science and Technology Program will be budgeted separately in FY 2006.
- In FY 2006, budgeted funds will be used to continue development of coast-wide data collection and the development of a series of system-wide interactive models to improve our ability to predict the ecosystem responsiveness of restoration projects. Efforts will focus on supporting implementation of the ecosystem restoration program.
- Cost sharing on a 50-50 percent basis will be applied until S&T program implementation is specifically authorized, after which the program will be cost shared as provided in the authorization.
- FY06 budget is $5 million, which is the study capability.

Cost:

Total Study Cost	$100M
Federal Cost	$50M
Non-Federal Cost	$50M

Issues: Implementation of the LCA Ecosystem Restoration Plan, Science and Technology Program component is contingent on Congressional authorization for the program in FY 05.